Cancellation of wagons orders

585. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Railways have decided to cancel a sizeable portion of the wagon orders placed with various public sector wagon building units;

(b) if so, the details of orders placed with each of the public sector as well as private sector wagon manufacturing units for the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and the orders cancelled against each of these units; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. Order quantities have been reduced for both Private Sector as well as Public Sector units.

(b) A statement is attached. (*See* below)

(c) Lower rates were received against fresh Tender opened on 30.12.1998. In view of this and declining trend of traffic resulting in reduced requirement of wagons, minus option clause of the contracts was exercised based on outstanding quantities as on 31.12.1998 and a reasonable work-in-progress.

Statement

Details of 1998-99 wagon orders placed and order quantities cancelled with each of the Public Sector as well as Private Sector wagon manufacturing units.

S. No.	Name of the firm	Quantity ordered (in nos.)	Quantity cancelled (in nos.)
1.	M/s. Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd., Muzaffarpur	526	60
2.	M/s. Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd., Mokameh	487	146
3.	M/s. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., Calcutta	658	40
4.	M/s. Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Burnpur	730	219
5.	M/s. Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Howrah	697	209
6.	M/s. Jessop & Co. Ltd., Calcutta	199	45
7.	M/s. Southern Structurals Ltd., Chennai	173	52
8.	M/s. Hindusthan Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Calcutta	1400	—
9.	M/s. Texmaco Ltd., Calcutta	1329	85
10.	M/s. Modern Industries, Sahibabad	327	—
11.	M/s. Cimmco Birla Ltd., Bharatpur	668	128
12.	M/s. BESCO Ltd., Calcutta	800	240

S. No.	Name of the firm	Quantity ordered (in nos.)	Quantity cancelled (in nos.)
13.	M/s. Titagarh Wagons Ltd., Calcutta	600	180
14.	M/s. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd., Kolar Gold Field	60	18
15.	M/s. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd., Mumbai	87	26
16.	M/s. Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd., Calcutta	30	9

No orders have been placed so far for 1999-2000.

Vacancies of Chairman and Directors

586. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of top vacancies of Chairman, Managing Director, Directors etc. still lying vacant in the various PSUs, Boards, Committees functioning under the Ministry of Railways for the last 2 years;

(b) What are the reasons for not filling up the vacancies; and

(c) What are Government's future plan in this regard and time limit fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) One.

(b) The post of Managing Director, Indian Railway Finance Corporation has been lying vacant for the last two years. The officer who was offered the appointment in August 1997 showed unwillingness to take up the assignment. Thereupon fresh selection process had been started and finding poor response from officers to be appointed on absorption terms, Department of Personnel & Training has been requested to relax the rules to permit the Railways to go ahead with the selection offering deputation terms to the prospective candidates. In this regard, the matter is under correspondence with Department of Personnel & Training.

(c) All out efforts are being made to finalise the appointment of Managing Director/IRFC in consultation with Department of Personnel & Training.

Railway projects in Assam

587. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing railway projects in Assam during the last three years and till date;

(b) the target date fixed for their completion and progress of these projects; and

(c) the funds provided for the said projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c)